

The River Press.

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FOR LARGER HOMESTEADS.

It is announced in a recent Washington dispatch that the enlarged homestead bill, about which there was a difference of opinion between the senate and house of representatives, has been passed by congress in a modified form and awaits the signature of the president. The provisions of the bill, as given in the dispatches, are in part as follows:

That any person who is a qualified entryman under the homesteads laws of the United States may enter, by legal subdivisions, under the provisions of this act, in the states of Colorado, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming, and the territories of Arizona and New Mexico, 320 acres, or less, of non-mineral, non irrigable, unreserved and unappropriated surveyed public lands which do not contain merchantable timber, located in a reasonably compact body, and not over 1 1/2 miles in extreme length; provided, that no lands shall be subject to entry under the provisions of this act until such lands shall have been designated by the secretary of the interior as not being, in his opinion, susceptible of successful irrigation at a reasonable cost from any known source of water supply.

Sec. 2. That any person applying to enter land under the provisions of this act shall make and subscribe before the proper officer an affidavit, as required by section 2290 of the revised statutes, and in addition thereto shall make affidavit that the land sought to be entered is of the character described in section 1 of this act, and shall pay the fees now required to be paid under the homestead laws.

Sec. 3. That any homestead entryman of lands of the character herein described, upon which final proof has not been made, shall have the right to enter public lands, subject to the provisions of this act, contiguous to his former entry which shall not, together with the original entry exceed 320 acres and residence upon and cultivation of the additional entry.

Sec. 4. That at the time of making final proofs, as provided in section 2291 of the revised statutes, the entryman under this act shall, in addition to the proofs and affidavits required under the said section, prove by two credible witnesses that at least one-eighth of the area embraced in his entry was continuously cultivated to agricultural crops other than native grasses beginning with the second year of the entry, and that at least one-fourth of the area embraced in the entry was so continuously beginning with the third year of the entry.

TO AMEND GAME LAW.

Several changes in the Montana game law are contemplated in a measure introduced in the eleventh assembly and which has been passed by the house of representatives. Some of the more important changes appear in these provisions of the bill:

Any person who shall, between December first of any year and October first of the following year, willfully shoot or kill, or cause to be shot or killed, any deer, or who in the open season of any calendar year shoots or kills, or causes to be shot or killed more than three deer, shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for a term not exceeding one year or in the county jail not less than three months, or by a fine of not more than \$500 nor less than \$100, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Any person who shall at any time after the passage and approval of this act and subsequent to the first day of October, 1918, willfully shoot or kill, or caused to be shot or killed any antelope, or beaver, shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for a term not exceeding two years or in the county jail not less than six months, or by a fine of not more than \$500 or less than \$100 or by both fine and imprisonment; provided, however, that it shall be lawful for any person to kill beaver upon his own premises, when such killing is necessary for the protection of said premises; but such person must at the time of such killing, have a permit from the state game warden authorizing such killing, and provided further that any person selling or offering for sale the skin or skins of any beaver within this state shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Any person who shall after the passage and approval of this act and subsequent to September 1, 1914, willfully shoot or kill, or cause to be shot or killed any grouse or prairie chicken, fool hen, sage hen, pheasant, partridge, kill-deer, plover or turtle dove, shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for a term of not less than ninety days nor more than six months, or by a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$500 or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Any person who shall between the thirty-first day of January, of any year, and the fifteenth day of September of the following year, willfully

shoot or kill, or cause to be shot or killed any wild geese, wild ducks, brant or swan, or shall during the open season shoot or kill or cause to be shot or killed more than twenty wild ducks in any one day, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$250, or by imprisonment in the county jail for a term not exceeding three months or less than one month, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

IT BENEFITS FARMERS.

On February ninth, twenty years ago, congress passed the act which created the department of agriculture. So accustomed have we in recent years become to the splendid work of this department of the federal government and so admirable have been its accomplishments that we have come to regard it as an older institution.

Probably more than any other department of the government, the department of agriculture has brought the administration of national affairs closer to the people. Problems have been solved by the department of agriculture which have been, when solved, worth millions to the country; under the direction of this department, too, has come most of the work of developing the conservation idea which is now the foremost domestic question which the government has to consider.

In the two decades that have ensued since the department was established, there have been four secretaries, the term of the first one, Mr. Colman, who was named by President Cleveland, having been but a few weeks. President Harrison appointed Jeremiah Rusk of Wisconsin, to the portfolio of agriculture and it was under his direction that the department really began its activity. The second Cleveland cabinet included J. Sterling Morton as head of the department and the work took a practical turn. It was Mr. Morton who gave us Arbor day and popularized the planting of trees.

In the McKinley and Roosevelt cabinets James Wilson of Iowa, has been secretary of agriculture and it is good news that he is to remain in the Taft cabinet. Secretary Wilson has made the department really a practical means of developing the country's resources. He has given it unquestioned value as an asset of the nation. To him the people of the west are particularly indebted.—Missoulian.

MAKING NEW LAWS.

How much we discuss the making of laws and how little the enforcement of them seems to concern us, says them Butte Evening News. Every two years we send 100 men, most of them with no training of legislative character, and many of them with little inclination for such important work, to Helena to "legislate" for us.

Two months are devoted to the introduction and discussion of a multitude of bills of every conceivable form and kind. Peripatetic reformers find here their golden opportunity; their pet schemes are now crystallized into typewritten sheets and digested with the prefatory phrase, "a bill or an act entitled an act, etc." True there are a few, a very few, genuine measures of necessity, and usually these are fathered by men with intelligence and prudence, as well as sincerity, for such occasionally get into legislative gatherings.

There is much to amuse in it all. We cannot fail to honor and admire our democratic form of government, but what business man with a property as vast and valuable as the state of Montana would biennially call in 100 men, selected haphazard, to act as a board of directors, knowing that four-fifths of them have not only no qualifications, but no desire to be styled makers of laws or directors of large enterprises.

Watch Springs.

The watch carried by the average man is composed of ninety-eight pieces, and its manufacture embraces more than 2,000 distinct and separate operations.

Hairspring wire weighs one-twentieth of a grain to the inch. One mile of wire weighs less than half a pound.

The balance gives five vibrations every second, 200 every minute, 18,000 every hour, 432,000 every day and 157,680,000 every year.

The value of springs when finished and placed in watches is enormous in proportion to the material from which they are made. A ton of steel made up into hairsprings when in watches is worth more than twelve and one-half times the value of the same weight in pure gold.

How He Managed It.

The bishop of Richmond told a good story about his father. "He was a farmer," said Dr. Pullen, "and a nice old gentleman too. One year he took it into his head to grow flax, so he sowed the seed and, having a good crop, sent it away to be made into a tablecloth. Some time later when seated at dinner he remarked to a lady near him, 'Do you know, I grew this tablecloth myself?' 'Did you really?' she answered, with the greatest surprise. 'However did you manage it?' 'Well,' most mysteriously, 'if you'll promise not to tell any one I'll tell you. I—planted a napkin.'—London Mail.

DIFFERENT STYLES.

Now Meredith and Browning Might Describe the Same Incident.

If Browning and George Meredith were describing the same act they might both be obscure, but their obscurities would be entirely different. Suppose, for instance, they were describing even so prosaic and material an act as a man being knocked downstairs by another man to whom he had given the lie. Meredith's description would refer to something which an ordinary observer would not see or at least could not describe. It might be a sudden sense of anarchy in the brain of the assaulter or a stupefaction and stunned serenity in that of the object of the assault.

He might write: "Wainwood's men vary in veracity" brought the baronet's arm up. He felt the doors of his brain burst and Wainwood a swift rushing of himself through air, accompanied with a clarity as of the annihilated."

Meredith, in other words, would speak queerly because he was describing queer mental experiences. But Browning might simply be describing the material incident of the man being knocked downstairs, and his description would run:

What then? "You lie" and doormat below stairs.

Takes bump from back. This is not subtlety, but merely a kind of insane swiftness.—Gilbert K. Chesterton.

BEARDED LADIES.

A Parisian Showman Says They Are Quite Numerous.

An Englishwoman who confesses to a mild mania for attending the street fairs common in and around Paris says that she is always impressed by the extraordinary number of bearded ladies among the attractions.

"I was inclined to think that they were fakes," she says in the London Gentlewoman, "but when I discovered that they were quite genuine my surprise at this wonderful supply of phenomena grew stronger. And when a few days ago I saw at the fair in the Avenue d'Orleans a lady exhibited with a long flowing beard I could no longer withhold my curiosity.

"I applied for information to a gentleman well known in the showman world and who acts as a kind of agent to the people owning shows, supplying them with the necessary goods, human and otherwise. This gentleman appeared surprised at my question.

"Bearded ladies!" he exclaimed. "I can find as many as I like. You have no idea how many women, if they liked, could rival men as regards whiskers and mustaches. But they are not anxious to enter into that kind of competition."

Winged Burglars.

Bucher in his "Psychic Life of Animals" speaks of thievish bees which, in order to save themselves the trouble of working, attack well stocked hives in masses, kill the sentinels and the inhabitants, rob the hives and carry off the provisions. After repeated enterprises of this description they acquire a taste for robbery and violence. They recruit whole companies, which get more and more numerous, and finally they form regular colonies of brigand bees. But it is a still more curious fact that these brigand bees can be produced artificially by giving working bees a mixture of honey and brandy to drink. The bees soon acquire a taste for this beverage, which has the same disastrous effect upon them as upon men. They become ill disposed and irritable and lose all desire for work, and finally, when they begin to feel hungry, they attack and plunder the well supplied hives.

One Reason.

There may be two reasons for a thing, both equally true, and it may be the height of folly to attribute the effect to both. A gentleman to whom art was a strange thing asked a friend to whom the ways of its votaries were more familiar:

"Why does Conneray stand off and half shut his eyes when he looks at the pictures he is painting? I was in his studio the other day, and he made me do it too."

"That's simply explained," replied the other. "Did you ever try to look at them near to, with your eyes wide open? Well, don't. You can't stand it."—Youth's Companion.

Didn't Wait For It.

A couple of Scotch ministers were taking dinner together one summer day in a little manse in the highlands. It was the Sabbath day, the weather was beautiful, and the bubbling streams were full of trout and the woods full of summer birds. One turned to the other and said:

"Mon, don't ye often feel tempted on these beautiful Sundays to go out fishing?"

"Na, na," said the other. "I never feel tempted. I just gang."

Plenty of Him.

"What sort of man is Jinks?" "The impression you get of Jinks depends on the circumstances under which you meet him. If you're there to collect money you won't like him. But if you're there to pay money he seems a lovely character."

His Way Out of It.

"He don't give nuthin' to the church now?" "No. Somebody told him the Bible says salvation is 'free,' an' he says fur be it from him to dispute the Scriptures!"—Atlanta Constitution.

Liberty exists in proportion to whole-some restraint.—Webster.

ROOSEVELT STANDS PAT.

President Declares Secret Service Has Done Excellent Work.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—President Roosevelt has added another stirring chapter to the secret service controversy in a vigorous and lengthy reply to the attacks made on this branch of the government in a report made recently by Senator Hemenway of the senate committee on appropriations. Senator Hemenway in this report, upholding the limitation in the scope of secret service, asserted that it had never been the intention of congress to build up a "spy" system, and with evident reference to this part of the report, the president declared that if the limitation of the use of the secret service had been in force when the sensational land frauds were unearthed a few years ago, a senator, a representative and various men of wealth and by political influence, who at that were convicted, would all have escaped punishment. The president's letter is addressed to Acting Chairman Hale of the senate appropriations committee.

Characterizing as "inaccurate and misleading in various important respects," both Senator Hemenway's report and the debate which it aroused in the senate, the president presented a mass of facts and figures in defense of the secret service during the seven years of his administration. Some of the president's data are based upon information supplied by Attorney General Bonaparte and Secretary of the Interior Garfield in support of the efficiency of the secret service in the detection of crime.

Preparing For Inauguration.

WASHINGTON, February 23.—Every preparation is being made for delivery of Wm. H. Taft's inaugural address on the stand now erected before the east portico of the capitol regardless of the kind of weather that may prevail on March 4.

The section of the stand from which Mr. Taft will deliver his address will be provided with a canvas cover to be put in place if necessary. Not since 1853, when Andrew Jackson was inaugurated the second time within the house of representatives, has the ceremony been held indoors.

Discussed Postal Savings Banks.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—For two hours and a half yesterday the senate discussed the postal savings bank bill, but an attempt to reach an agreement as to a day for voting on the measure that Senator Carter of Montana is urging, failed. Senator Aldrich obtained the consent to a resolution continuing the committees of the senate as they now exist until their successors are chosen in the next regular session.

Senator Carter asked unanimous consent for a vote on the postal savings bill and amendments at 4 p. m., but Senator Hepburn objected. Senator Carter then had read a substitute for his original bill.

The provision which makes it possible to withdraw for certain purposes deposits of the savings funds to the treasury fund was criticised. Senator Cummins said it would be viewed by the people of the west "as simply another method of collecting money so that it will find its way into the money centers and incapacitate it to render the function for our people which it was intended to render."

Senator Carter defended these provisions, declaring that one of the best features of the substitute bill was that one which authorizes the loan of money of the postal funds on improved real estate. As neither the secretary of the treasury nor the postmaster general could visit various localities to examine the value of real estate, he said it was necessary to provide suitable officials to perform this duty.

Idaho Project is Open.

BOISE, Feb. 23.—Five thousand people, including representatives of the reclamation service, Governor Brady and members of the Idaho legislature, witnessed the formal opening of the Payette-Boise project, the biggest reclamation work ever undertaken by the federal government.

A great cheer went up from the settlers and spectators as the head gates of the canal were raised and waters of the Boise valley were diverted to more than two hundred thousand acres of land. The ceremony was at the big dam, eight miles above Boise, which provides the source of the project. From this point the water is diverted into canal systems covering Ada and Canyon counties.

One canal carries water to the Deer flat reservoir, on which is the largest artificial body of water in the world. This great reservoir will be filled before the irrigating season begins and the waters stored for use during the dry season. Practically all the land under the project has been filed on, settlers in many cases having filed on the desert two or three years ago waiting for the delivery of water. The reclamation service has limited the size of claims to 80 acres and eventually there will be 5,000 farms under the project.

ROBIN HOOD NOT A MYTH.

Hero of Sherwood Forest Had a Court Place Under King Edward II.

Many famous men have their names linked with Sherwood—King John, the three Edwards, Richard III., Cardinal Wolsey and Charles I.—but the hero of the place, the "genius loci," is Robin Hood.

Some think that the famous outlaw of the ballads was a myth, a mere poetic conception and a creature of the popular mind, but Mr. Hunter in his research into the person and period of Robin Hood holds that he was born between 1285 and 1295, living through the reign of the second Edward and into the early years of the third. He was of a family of some station seated near Wakefield and supported the Earl of Lancaster in his rebellion against the government. When the earl fell and his followers were proscribed Robin Hood took to the woods and supported himself by slaying the wild animals found in the forest and by levying a species of blackmail on passengers along the great road which united London and Berwick. This continued for about twenty months, from April, 1322, to December, 1323, when he fell into the king's power, who for some unknown reason not only pardoned him, but gave him a place at court. Anyhow, a man of the name of Robyn Hode was a "varlet" of the king in 1324.

Dr. Spencer T. Hall says that Robyn was created Earl of Huntingdon by a London ballad writer hard up for a word to rhyme to Little John. Be this as it may, Robin Hood will always be the hero of romance, and those who love romance will refuse to believe that he never existed.—London Globe.

Mansfield's Lonely Meals.

There were two meals which Mansfield always ate alone—breakfast and the light repast of broth and oysters late in the afternoon. An empty stomach attacked his nerves and set his temper on edge. In the morning he was in no convenient mood until he had the invariable coffee and bacon. After a somewhat rigid abstinence during the balance of the day and evening the fatigue of a performance edged his nerves till his midnight supper, which, with a troop of friends about him, warmed him into the sunniest humor of the day. A book or play was the companion of his solitary meals.—Paul Wiltach in Scribner's.

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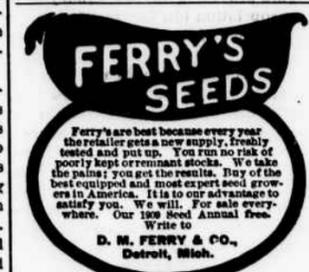
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